

SPECIAL BRANCH REGISTRY.

File No. I.O. 694.

SUBJECT

Letter from "The Brave Iron & Blood Society"
exacting funds for the rebel cause.

Copy 694

C. I. D. RE-694

Translation of a letter received by Cho Lan Fong

on 20th March 1916.

To Messrs Ching Tsai, Lan Fong, and Say Siang.

Gentlemen:

Although we have not the pleasure of seeing you, we have long appreciated your generosity. Having successfully attained our object in strengthening the people's rights in the year of 1911, the members of our party gave up their positions in order that they might devote their attention to improving the material existence of our people. It was then our hope that the country would soon become strong and people would enjoy the blessings of a Republic.

However Yuan under the name of Republicanism has adopted the policy of despotism. He removed his opponents and misruled the country resulting in corruption in the internal administration and difficulties in diplomatic negotiations. Hence we started the revolution in 1913 but the citizens then not knowing the treachery of Yuan, assisted the "tiger" which caused a failure in the revolution. What then was our sufferings?

We were obliged to start the revolution in view of the misrule of Yuan and in the hope of saving our people. Yuan seeing the speedy suppression of the late insurrection and the strong support of his adherents who have been scattered over the country making opposition impossible, then dreamed of making himself Emperor. He has sold the country. In addition to the twenty one demands which he has recognised he offers the concession of the articles mentioned in Group 5 as an exchange for the recognition of the Monarchy. Internally he utilized the military men in fabricating the opinion of the people in favour of the change.

Now Generals Dong and Tser have declared independence in the south west and are endeavouring to preserve the Republic by means of iron and blood.

The enemy is being besieged in Szechuen and the Yunnan soldiers are entering Hunan and attacking them in the rear. Following the Kwangai independence came the defeats of the enemy's army. Our influence is growing stronger and sympathy is felt whenever our army passes. The rich help us with money and the strong assist us with their strength.

We have long known you as being generous, and patriotic and very anxious to see the restoration of the Republic in the East Asia. The contributions from various places mostly go to the needs in the south west, and therefore financial difficulties are being felt in this province. We hope that you being enthusiastically interested in national affairs, will not neglect your native place, the Kiangsu province. We request that you will within three days jointly raise \$100,000.00 and give us for distribution so as to enable us to speedily carry out our aim to a successful issue.

As soon as the new Republican Government is established we will mortgage the first Debenture Bonds as a pledge the amount you lend us.

Your gain is the privilege of patriots in lending us the money while we receive the support of a loan most needed in such a time when we act in a revolution. Thus we enjoy the benefits alike. We presume you will not refuse the loan. If you grant our request please immediately publish an advertisement in Sinwanpao and or Taung Wah Sin Pao

to that effect in order that we may send a deputy to communicate with you.

With compliments.

Dong Ping Kung, representative.

張平鈞

20th March.

(Stamp) The Brave Iron and Blood Society.

It is proposed that

Mr. Dong 董 contribute \$50,000.

Mr. Cho 趙 \$30,000.

Mr. Yung 榮 \$20,000.

Envelope.

To

Mr. Cha Lan Fong, Esq.

The Kung Kwan of Cho,

Wharf of the Sih Ching Guild.

San Po.

From Dong,

20 March.